

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, 10-16, 28-30 and 34-38 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Igarashi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the claim modifications made herein and in light of the following remarks.

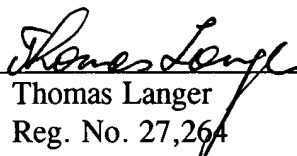
The Examiner's courteous and helpful assistance extended to the undersigned during the telephone interview held on May 13, 2005 is acknowledged with appreciation. That telephone interview was initiated by the Examiner with an offer to allow claim 1 if it were modified in a certain way. The Examiner's proposed modification is implemented in the claim changes made hereinabove to independent claims 1 and 28. After that telephone interview, the undersigned sought approval from the Applicant, which subsequently was given. However, ensuing efforts by the undersigned and the Examiner to reach each other by telephone were unsuccessful. As a result, the outstanding Office Action was issued.

As explained above, the amended versions of claims 1 and 28 presented hereinabove incorporate the claim changes indicated by the Examiner as putting these claims into condition for allowance over the applied references. Accordingly, this application is now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of such matters.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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